

KENTUCKY ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

Based on Alternate Achievement Standards

2015-2016 ADMINISTRATION GUIDE

for

TRANSITION ATTAINMENT RECORD



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KEVIN BROWN, INTERIM COMMISSIONER
AND GENERAL COUNSEL



Contents

Kentucky Alternate Assessment Revised: Transition Attainment Record 2015-16 ...	2
Specifications	3
Grade Level Requirements	3
Test Security	4
Administration Protocol	5
Timelines	5
Administrators	5
Steps to Completing the TAR	6
Items Rating Scale.....	7
Supporting Documentation	8
AAAF (the Alternate Assessment Accountability Folder required for alternate assessment and would include any assessments designed for the TAR)	8
Instructional Team Consensus.....	9
Designing and Utilizing Assessment Activities	9
Example Assessment Activity:	9
Score and Reporting	10
Glossary	11
References	13

Kentucky Alternate Assessment Revised: Transition Attainment Record 2015-16

The **Transition Attainment Record (TAR)** is one of two components of the Kentucky Alternate Assessment. The TAR provides an alternate assessment to the ACT in the content areas of English/Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA 1997, PL 108-446) requires states to develop and implement guidelines for the participation of children with disabilities in alternate assessments for those children who cannot participate in regular assessments with accommodations. The TAR approach:

- assesses skills that evidence performance of desired skill sets and concepts,
- allows the instructional team to evaluate student performance, and
- permits students with significant cognitive disabilities to be assessed on skills and concepts that are linked to grade level academic skills through basic literacy, language, quantitative, and science skills that will lead to successful transitions from high school to adult life.

Specifications

The Transition Attainment Record has the same participation guidelines as the Attainment Tasks. There is not a separate version for students participating in Performance Dimension A and B. Participation must be an Individual Education Program (IEP) team decision and must be documented on the IEP. The TAR is designed exclusively for students with significant cognitive disabilities who have met all of the participation guidelines.

Grade Level Requirements

The Transition Attainment Record assesses a student's ability to demonstrate understanding of concepts and skills that are related to academic curriculum at grade 11 and mirrors the content assessed by the ACT assessment.

In grade eleven the following concepts and skills may be tested:

English/Language Arts – literary elements and devices, determining how characters advance the plot; theme and objective summary. Also determining how the author advances plot using rhetoric; organize writing; selecting a writing style and producing clear and coherent writing

Mathematics – creating histograms and dot plots, mean and median, solving linear equations and inequalities

Science – earth's surface processes and water, engineering and design, environmental changes in ecosystems and traits of species, forces and chemical reactions

TAR at Grades 12 and 14

Any student who did not meet benchmark at grade 11 is eligible to take the grade 11 TAR at grades 12 and 14. The reading benchmark at grade 11 is 19; mathematics is 16.

Grade 12

Grade 12 students who did not meet the benchmarks for the TAR shall take the grade 11 TAR assessments in reading and mathematics only. When the district would like to enter the student scores in the Student Registration Database (SRD) they may do so by first contacting Kevin O’Hair at kevin.ohair@education.ky.gov and requesting the account to be opened.

Grade 14

Students who have completed the grade 12 assessment requirements and remained enrolled as a grade 14 student will also have the opportunity to take the grade 11 TAR if the benchmark has not been met at grades 11 or 12 prior. A grade 14 student will not appear in the SRD, it will be up to the district to register the student in the database. Once the district registers the student in the SRD, the district must then contact Kevin O’Hair at kevin.ohair@education.ky.gov to request the account be opened. Once the account is open, scores may be entered into the SRD.

STUDENTS TAKING THE TAR AT GRADE 14 CANNOT HAVE A GRADUATION CODE IN PLACE

Test Security

The Transition Attainment Record is considered secure testing material and must follow the Administration Code for Kentucky’s Educational Assessment Program (703 KAR 5:080) and the Inclusion of Special Populations in the State-Required Assessment and Accountability Programs (703 KAR 5:070) established for the general assessment. The following information from the administration code training is adapted to address the TAR.

District assessment coordinators (DACs), administrators and teachers shall ensure the security of the assessment materials before, during and after test administration. **When not being used for testing sessions, all attainment tasks and materials shall be stored in a secure location with access granted to authorized personnel only.**

OK	Not OK
It is appropriate for teachers to know the concepts measured by the statewide assessment and to teach those concepts. Concepts appropriate for curriculum instruction can be found in The Kentucky Performance Rating for Educational Progress.	Secure test materials shall not be reproduced in whole, in part, or paraphrased in any way. Examples include: photocopying, photographing, handwriting, or typing.
The Transition Attainment Record can be reviewed and administered from the date in	Local district staff may not show items in the test booklets to anyone not involved in administration of the test unless directed by the superintendent (See Section IV of this

OK	Not OK
<p>which it is posted on the Online Training System (OTS) website through the due date.</p> <p>Test Administrators shall destroy or file in the Alternate Assessment Accountability Folder (AAAF) any notes, rough drafts, or scratch paper produced by students during testing immediately after each testing session or at the end of the testing day, ensuring that no test item is compromised.</p>	<p>document for details). Once authorization has been granted to local district staff to have access to the tests, staff shall not use knowledge about the content of any specific questions to prepare students for the assessment.</p> <p>Teachers or other staff, who become aware of specific test items through any means, shall not use this knowledge to prepare students for the assessment.</p>

Students may have TAR materials provided to them by using a text reader or by creating the symbol choice answers on the computer. When secure material is located on a disk drive, district staff shall ensure that upon completion of assessment administration, files containing secure materials are completely and permanently deleted from all computer equipment. This applies to both the scanning and entry of secure test materials and student responses. Electronic or other versions of secure assessment materials or related student responses shall not be maintained in the district and should be destroyed.

Administration Protocol

This section provides detailed specifications for scoring the TAR with individual students. Adherence to these guidelines is required to facilitate the assessment process.

Timelines

The TAR is part of the Kentucky Alternate Assessment, and ratings can begin once training is complete and the document has been downloaded (test administrators will be prompted to download the TAR after successful completion of the quiz). The TAR must be completed by the due date of May 27, 2016.

Teachers or district representatives will print the TAR for each student in grade 11. Experience in the field following the first year of implementation showed that the best time to complete the majority of the record is during the transition meeting or the Annual Admissions and Release Committee (ARC) meeting. This may be the best time to conduct the student interview portion of the TAR. The interview information is used for data purposes only and does not impact student assessment scores. The student interview information is designed to provide valuable information for transition planning. The scored items should be stored in the AAAF. Information on reporting the scores will be delivered through Alternate Assessment and DAC e-mails.

Administrators

The TAR must be completed by a professional certified staff member of the student's instructional team and done in collaboration with other instructional team members. The

person responsible for recording the assessment must pass a qualification quiz before completing the TAR. Upon successful completion of the quiz, you will be granted access to the TAR for grade 11 (under Teacher Tools/Quiz Site Location). Instructional team members may include:

- **Primary Special Education Teacher**: If a student has more than one special education teacher, the individual who is most familiar with the student's performance across multiple settings should be responsible for completing the record and the student interview. This teacher will also be responsible for recording scores as directed. Student scores, or ratings, will be entered in the SRD.
- **General Education Teacher(s)**: To the extent a student participates in the general education program, the student's general education teacher(s) should collaborate with the primary special education teacher in determining appropriate ratings for the items on the Record.
- **Other Staff**: Other team members who have knowledge of a student's current performance levels in the areas assessed by the TAR should be consulted. Often, a student's Speech/Language Pathologist, Guidance Counselor, School Psychologist, or one of the other team members will have valuable information about the student's performance in different settings.
- **Paraprofessionals may assist in administering the assessment.** However, the primary administration and all of the scoring must be completed by a certified teacher.

Steps to Completing the TAR

The TAR is based on the rater's knowledge of the student's current performance at the time it is administered. The student's lead instructional team member should solicit input from other teachers and certified staff members when completing the TAR. They should supplement their own observations of the student with additional assessment activities as needed. The lead instructional team member's online certification should be printed and filed in the AAAPF.

The goal of the TAR is to provide an accurate picture of the student's achievement and must reflect the student's current achievement levels. This means that the rater must be confident that the ratings being assigned accurately reflect the student's achievement when the TAR is finalized. The items being rated must have been observed within a year's time. Any item that has not been assessed within a year must be reassessed prior to completion of the TAR to confirm the student's performance level.

1. Complete the online training. Complete the qualification quiz. Only one person (usually the lead member) on the instructional team needs to complete the training and quiz.
2. Sign a Code of Ethics, and file it in the AAAPF. Each person assisting with the administration of the TAR must sign a Code of Ethics. The Code of Ethics is the

same for all TAR assessment components; therefore, a teacher need only sign one Code of Ethics per student. The original Code of Ethics signed by the teacher administering the assessment *should be filed in the AAAF*. Any non-school personnel who assist should sign a non-disclosure form that should also be filed in the AAAF.

3. Review all the standards, critical functions, items, and possible documentation locations for each item in each content area.
4. Before rating a student's performance, it is important to review the TAR items with other professionals who participate in the implementation of the student's instruction and jointly decide whether the student's performance on each item should be scored as a 0, 1, or 2 (as explained in the following section). Note the location of supporting documentation.
5. Make sure to respond to every item and record where the documentation for that item is located (e.g., due process folder, AAAF, etc.)
6. If you are unsure of the student's current performance level for an item, develop an assessment activity (as explained in the following section) during which you can observe the student's behavior.
7. Review the completed TAR to ensure that all areas have been marked.
8. Complete the Student Interview. If a student is unable to complete the student interview even with support, the team may complete it based on knowledge of the student.
9. Store the AAAF in a secure location between assessment sessions and when completed.
10. Transfer scores to the Student Registration Database as indicated when directions are received through the Alternate Assessment E-mail distribution list and DAC e-mail.

Items Rating Scale

Every item must be rated on the following 3-point scale. **There must be a response for every item.** When rating an item, any mode of communication or responding that is typically utilized by the student is acceptable. It is important, whenever possible, to identify a modality that will permit the student to demonstrate the basic skill addressed by the item. This means that for some students, skills will be demonstrated verbally; other skills might be demonstrated by gestures, eye gaze, assistive technology, etc.

<u>Rating Scale</u>	<u>Explanation</u>
0 Does not demonstrate skill	Use this response for skills and concepts that the student does not demonstrate in any setting.
1 Developing/Prompted	Use this response for skills the student displays only with some level of prompt (i.e., a verbal cue, partial physical guidance, modeling, etc.). Use also for skills that are displayed inconsistently. If a student can demonstrate a skill occasionally but not consistently (79% of the time), then the skill should be rated a “1 Developing/Supported.”
2 Independent/Mastered	Use this response for skills that the student clearly has mastered and performs independently. To be rated as “2 Independent/Mastered,” the student must demonstrate the skill consistently over time. The student does not have to demonstrate the skill every time but over the course of instruction would have shown that he/she has mastered the skill 80% or more of the time without prompt support.

If an item requires two parts (e.g., The student is able to identify the origin **and** choose the appropriate scale to graph given data. If the student completes only one part, then the student would receive a 1).

Supporting Documentation

Rating of student performance must be based on direct observation and must be documented. The documentation may take various forms, including quizzes, anecdotal notes, placement tests, class work, etc. The location of supporting documentation must be noted for each item. The lead team member should check off the location of the documentation. If the location is not listed, then “other” can be checked and the location listed. Following are the provided locations with a brief explanation:

- AAAPF (the Alternate Assessment Accountability Folder required for alternate assessment and would include any assessments designed for the TAR)
- ILP (current Individual Learning Plan or the most current transition planning documents)
- Student’s working folder (due process folder, classroom working folder, etc.)
- Other _____
- No previous documentation

Instructional Team Consensus

For many items, there will be immediate consensus regarding the student's current performance level. For this reason, the team members may wish to focus on discussing and resolving any differences in their perceptions for items about which there is no general agreement. If, after exploring the reasons for their differing opinions, the team members cannot reach agreement or if they determine that the student demonstrates different performance levels at different times or under different conditions, then the **lowest** of the ratings being considered must be assigned to the item.

Designing and Utilizing Assessment Activities

When unsure of the student's current performance on an item, the team should create an assessment activity to allow demonstration of performance. As needed, consult with the content teacher to clearly understand the TAR concepts and skills. Select an activity that reflects the critical function of the concept or skill set to which the item is related. When observing the student during an assessment activity, remember the following guidelines:

- a. provide assessment directions,
- b. provide the student with tools necessary to demonstrate the knowledge, skill, or concept as indicated on the assessment item,
- c. observe the student at a different time if the session is interrupted with medical or behavioral problems,
- d. use supports (assistive technology, adaptations and modifications) as needed,
- e. provide a minimum of three choices when choices are provided, and include distractors or incorrect answers along with the correct choice,
- f. score any prompts (models, prompts, cues, etc.) provided that would guide to the correct answer as a 1 – Developing/Supported, and
- g. **DO NOT** provide full physical prompting (e.g., hand over hand)

Example Assessment Activity:

The student is able to identify the author's purpose in a text. In order to assess whether the student is able to identify the author's purpose, the teacher develops an activity around a newspaper article about storm damage in their town. The student is read the article from the paper and allowed to look at the photos. He/she is given the article, which has been modified, reduced, and adapted with picture symbols to read. Given three picture options, the student selects the picture that best represents the author's purpose for writing the article.

Rating:

- 0 = the student was not able to respond even with verbal and/or partial physical prompts
- 1 = the student selected the author's purpose with verbal prompts
- 2 = the student selected the author's purpose independently

It is critical that the scoring criteria be applied correctly and objectively for every item assessed. To the extent that a rater works to become a better observer of student behavior and to more fully understand the subtleties of various student responses and the role that cues and prompts play in eliciting these responses, he/she will become a more reliable rater and will produce more accurate and reliable results.

Score and Reporting

The team rates or scores the student performance as the TAR is completed. The lead team member reports the student's scores to the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) through the SRD.

Glossary

AAAF: The Alternate Assessment Accountability Folder is a collection of materials put together over the course of the school year that include the Student Information Page, teacher quizzes, signed Code of Ethics, work samples and the TAR for grade 11 students. Information contained in the folder may be used for audits by the KDE. It is a confidential and secure file and should be stored accordingly.

accommodation: changes in how a test or assessment is presented or in the response a test-taker gives (e.g., test format, response format, setting, timing, schedule); changes do not affect level, content, or performance criteria but provide equitable instructional and assessment access for students with disabilities. Accommodations are intended to *mediate* the effects of a student's disability – they are *not* intended to reduce learning expectations.

adaptation: changes made to existing materials or instructional delivery in order to meet the needs of a student (e.g., head pointers, Opti-Indicator, *Boardmaker* [Mayer Johnson] symbols, photographs, symbols paired with real objects, real objects, enlarged pictures, textured or raised pictures, high contrast color or coactive signs).

alignment: The effort to ensure that what teachers teach is in accordance with what the curriculum says will be taught and what is assessed on official assessments. The alignment of expectations for student learning with assessments for measuring students' attainment of these expectations is an essential attribute for an effective standards-based education system. Without adequate alignment between standards and assessments, teachers and students become confused about educational expectations. Among other things, this can result in learning expectations being lowered for some students while being raised for others, creating potential inequities.

Alternative High School Diploma: a diploma provided to students with significant cognitive disabilities who are unable to meet requirements for a regular high school diploma. Recipients of an Alternative High School Diploma will participate in alternate assessments. The Alternative High School Diploma is not equivalent to a regular high school diploma.

assistive technology: tools and strategies used to assist students in developing and participating in meaningful academics, social relationships, and employment activities; can range from *low technology* (e.g., unaided communication systems, sign language, etc.) to *high technology* (e.g., computers with switch interfaces, etc.).

augmentative communication: low, medium, or high technology system that assists the student in expressive language (e.g., making a request, initiate, and respond to questions, describe things or events, and express refusal).

cut scores: set by the standards setting committee, cut scores are demarcations on a scale of all possible raw scores that show the beginning and ending points for each performance level.

mode of communication: the predominate way a student expresses his/her thoughts (e.g., through words, pictures, objects, tactile cues, augmented communication/assistive technology).

modification: substantial changes in what a student is expected to learn and/or demonstrate; changes may be in level, content, performance, test format, and/or performance format.

prompt: for the purpose of this assessment, a prompt is defined as any word(s), gesture, or physical assistance provided by the teacher that is designed **to lead or guide the student to the correct answer** during any instructional activity (e.g., work samples, projects, or assessment probes).

supports: adaptations, modifications, assistive technology, and other accommodations that provide the student access to information and allow the student to demonstrate understanding. These do not guide the student to the answer.

References

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Amendments of 1997, PL 105-17, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1400 *et seq.*

Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004, PL 108-446, 20 U.S.C. §1400 *et seq*

No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, PL 107-110, 115 Stat. 1425, 20 U.S.C §§ 6301 *et seq.*

U.S. Department of Education (December 9, 2003). Improving the academic achievement of the disadvantaged. *Federal Register*, 66 (236), 68698-68708

U.S. Department of Education (April 2004). Standards and assessment, peer review guidance: information and examples for meeting the requirements of No Child Left Behind Act 2001

U.S. Department of Education (August 2005). Alternate achievement standards for students with the most significant disabilities, non-regulatory guidance